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Trevelyan, G. M. *England in the Age of Wycliffe*. Pp. xvi, 380. Price, \$2.00. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

The popularity of this book, originally composed as a dissertation presented in competition for a fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge, has been due no less to its lucid style and clear presentation than to its sound scholarship. That it has attained its end in depicting English political and religious life in the later fourteenth century to the general reader, as well as to the specialist, is attested by the numerous editions called for since its first appearance ten years ago. The first edition left the press in February, 1899, and was followed in June of the same year by a second. This was reprinted in January, 1900. A third edition appeared in 1904, with a reprint in 1906, and now the fourth edition has recently come from the press.

The new editions have introduced but few changes in the text, which stands practically as first written with the exception of certain alterations in style, the correction of a few positive errors and some modifications in the treatment of the Peasants' Rising of 1381, due to a higher appreciation of the authority of an anonymous chronicle which had been treated with some suspicion in the first edition. The chief criticisms to which Trevelyan's book has been subjected in the reviews have been his survey in chapters four and five of the condition of the Church in England in the fourteenth century, which has been variously pronounced too favorable and too severe. This, in itself, is a testimony of its fairness, and he has made no alterations in the present edition, on the ground that having in later years devoted himself to other fields of history he has not had the time to devote to the necessary study of the sources in order to correct or confirm his former judgment. The period covered in "The Age of Wycliffe" is from 1376 to 1399, with an additional chapter touching the later history of Lollardry, down to the Reformation. This last chapter will prove to many readers the most interesting and important of the book.

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Woodruff, C. R. (Ed.). *Proceedings of the Cincinnati Conference for Good City Government and the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of National Municipal League*. Pp. vi, 487. Philadelphia: National Municipal League, 1909.

The volume containing the proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the National Municipal League presents an inspiring picture of the growth of civic effort in the United States. Such a volume as this cannot help but renew the faith and hope of those who may have become skeptical of the future of democratic institutions in the United States. Foreign observers have often pointed out to us that in no other country of the civilized world is so much unselfish effort put forth. If any further proof of this fact were necessary, one need but read the contents of this volume. There is noticeable throughout the papers presented, and especially in the admirable summary of the secretary of the league, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Esq., a desire for

constructive effort rather than for destructive criticism. The character of the papers presented gives ample proof of this fact.

Of special value at these meetings is the series of round-table conferences, which serve as a kind of national clearing house, to which the experience of all sections of the country is brought. Three such round-table conferences were held at the Cincinnati meeting; one on franchises, a second on methods of municipal improvement and a third on the short ballot.

The volume contains a number of excellent papers on "Problems of Police Administration" and an illuminating discussion on the same subject, which was participated in by Professors Shepherd, Chadsey and Dunn, and Messrs. E. J. Ward, A. Leo Weil and Fred Tuke.

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